

Charter of the University Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee

(April 11, 2016)

(Updated in response to 2/17/20 Motion #XXIV-M8)

The University Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee

Preamble: Academic Values

The purpose of the University Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee is to uphold the academic mission, integrity, and priorities of the university. To accomplish this, the UCAPC shall seek to support and balance the goals that result naturally from our core academic values, including our commitment to:

1. excellence in our particular fields of study, as expressed in our teaching, research, and support of our departments and programs.
2. teaching and research beyond the boundaries of our individual departments and colleges. We recognize that disciplinary boundaries frequently are artificial; and we believe that there should be no impediments to crossing them whenever necessary for interdisciplinary courses, majors, programs (including General Education), and research.
3. the idea of a university as a community in itself and as a contributor to the larger communities to which we all belong. Whether or not we participate directly in these activities ourselves, we all benefit when we have confidence that the ideals of excellence are being supported throughout the university in scholarship, curricula, the arts, athletics, and service for the common good.

In balancing these three levels of commitment, the UCAPC's focus must remain on academic excellence and integrity, independent of budgetary issues.

The Faculty Senate recognizes that there never will be resources fully adequate to do everything possible; but as we make and support choices among alternative uses, we emphasize that the standard by which fiscal decisions should be judged is their effect on university academic goals, never vice versa. A good budget system serves academic priorities; it does not define them.

Responsibilities of the UCAPC

The UCAPC is a permanent committee of the UNH Faculty Senate. The UCAPC is intended (1) to serve as an appeals and fact-finding body to consider academic and curricular matters which have inter-college and/or campus-wide effects or which are likely to affect the quality or integrity of the realization of the university's academic mission and (2) to advise the Faculty Senate on its findings and recommendations. The Faculty Senate will consider the UCAPC's recommendations, act and forward the recommendations arising from the senate's deliberations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The UCAPC does not replace the curriculum and academic policy committees of the schools and colleges. However, the UCAPC has the authority to review the decisions of those

bodies when those decisions are deemed by the Faculty Senate, the VPAA, or affected parties to have impacts beyond the school or college in which they originate.

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) and the Agenda Committee of the Faculty Senate have the authority to assign cases to UCAPC, normally after consultation with each other. Other units would ordinarily present their concerns to either of these entities for referral to UCAPC. After its review, UCAPC will report the results of its deliberations to the Faculty Senate. Following the outcome of deliberations in the senate, the senate's final recommendations on UCAPC's recommendations will be reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs by the senate's Agenda Committee.

In particular, the UCAPC shall:

1. Advise on the resolution of conflicts over "ownership" or "principal residence" of academic areas. For this purpose, UCAPC may design and implement a process of public review and commentary.
2. Advise on policy changes and apparent trends that affect or have the potential to affect academic quality. The Faculty Senate recognizes that RCM has economic drivers that may adversely affect academic quality. Possible concerns might include changes in average class size, grading norms, credit-hour allocation, and use of temporary faculty. The UCAPC has the authority to obtain data directly from the university's Office of Institutional Research.
3. Advise on the adequacy of the use of discretionary funds intended to support programs which are essential to the university's academic mission but not necessarily able to be revenue generating or self supporting.
4. Consult and advise on campus-wide curricular matters (such as the General Education Program, policies regarding declaring majors, and the support of interdisciplinary courses and programs).

UCAPC Structure and Organization

A. Name of committee

University Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee (UCAPC)

B. Relation to Faculty Senate

1. The UCAPC is a committee of the Faculty Senate.
2. The UCAPC will report all decisions to the Senate's Agenda Committee in a timely way. In addition, at the end of each academic year, the UCAPC will provide the senate with a full written report of the UCAPC's decisions, cases, and activities during that year.

C. Membership

The UCAPC will consist of members described by the following:

1.a. Tenured faculty members who are not also administrators shall represent the schools, colleges and the library in proportion to the size of their faculties. Specifically, each school, college and the library with less than 75 permanent full-time-equivalent faculty (tenure track and non-tenure track combined) will have 1 representative; more than 75 but fewer than 150 will have 2; and greater than 150 will have 3.

1.b. The faculty representatives from each college will be elected by written ballot by the members of the faculty in that college eligible to vote for faculty senators.

1.c. The term of service for faculty is three years, with staggered terms. Committee members may be re-elected. When a member is unable to complete his or her term, the Faculty Senate will appoint a replacement for the balance of the term, provided that replacement represents the same college as that represented by the member who left the seat vacant.

2. Two students, consisting of the chair of the Graduate Student Organization or that person's designee and the president of the student body or that person's designee. The students will have a term of service of two years.

3. Two members of the administration, consisting of the vice president for Academic Affairs or that person's designee and the chair of the Academic Standards and Advising Committee or that person's designee.

D. Organization

1. The UCAPC will have a chair and a vice chair who shall be elected for one-year terms by the UCAPC from among its members. Both the chair and the vice chair must be faculty members. The chair (or in that person's absence, the vice chair) shall preside at all meetings of the UCAPC.

2. Only the faculty and student members of the committee shall be voting members.

3. The UCAPC will communicate its recommendations to the Faculty Senate. The Agenda Committee of the Faculty Senate will forward the senate's recommendations to the VPAA/Provost in a timely way. In addition, at the end of each academic year, the UCAPC will provide the VPAA/Provost with a copy of its report to the Faculty Senate. [Please see the preamble of the Constitution of the Faculty Senate.]